

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NSCE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 L-02 OMB-01 SPC-01 ACDA-10 EUR-10

NSC-10 IO-03 DRC-01 /081 W

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P R 150352Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1607

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCUNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8445

LIMDIS

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, KR, KN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK'S COMMENTS ON YELLOW SEA PROBLEM

1. PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE TOLD UNCORK REPS DURING FAREWELL CALL AT BLUE HOUSE THAT ROK NAVY WOULD BE OBLIGED AT SOME POINT TO LET FERRIES GO TO FIVE YELLOW SEA ISLANDS UNESCORTED, AND THAT IF NK KIDNAPPED THESE BOATS, ROK WOULD ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THEM BY FORCE, AND FAILING THAT RETALIATE.

2. AUSTRALIAN REP, AMBASSADOR BOURCHIER, TO BE CERTAIN HE UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY, ASKED IF THE PRESIDENT MEANT MILITARY RETALIATION. PARK REPLIED YES, AND ADDED THAT "OUR RESPONSE" IN 1968 TO BLUE HOUSE RAID, PUEBLO AND OTHER PROVOCATIONS HAD BEEN TO GO TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THIS HE SAID HAD BEEN A MISTAKE. THE NORTH ONLY UNDERSTANDS FORCE.

COMMENT: PARK IS VOCING THE INSTINCTIVE KOREAN

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REACTION, AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE TOLD

US THAT IN BRIEFINGS AT OTHER LEVELS THEY HAVE HEARD
THE TOUGHT, HARDLINE. THE ROKG MAY BE HOPING
THAT THIS POSITION WILL BE RELAYED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS TO THE PRC AND USSR AND THENCE TO THE DPRK.
IN CONTACTS WITH US THE KOREANS HAVE, WHILE STANDING
FIRM, BEEN MORE MODERATE.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

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